

ILLEGIB

THE INTELLIGENCE WAR AGEE AND THE BALLERINA

By ROBERT MOSS

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THE Hamburg State Opera occupies a petite, ultra-modern building sandwiched between shops on the Dammtorstrasse.

When I last visited it, the ballet troupe was performing Mendelssohn's "Ein Sommer-nachtstraum."

Among the dancers is a girl called Gysele Ingool, who was born in Wyoming. She signed a contract with the State Opera company last autumn that will run out at the end of May.

When the local authorities approved her residency application, they were not aware that on March 15 this year, in Amsterdam, Miss Ingool became Mrs Philip Agee, the wife of the CIA's "ideological defector," who has initiated a worldwide campaign against Western intelligence services.

Soon after her contract was signed, Agee followed his wife to Hamburg.

Wife's support

On his application for residency rights, he declared that he would be supported by his wife. Local officials decided he could stay.

So, after having been deported from Britain as a security risk, and shown the door by the Dutch, the French and the West Germans, it looks as if Agee has found a secure West European base from which to pursue his vendetta against his former employers and Allied services.

There is concern in Bonn that his arrival in Hamburg coincides with the stepping-up of a Left-wing campaign to emasculate the West German secret service by means of the same techniques that were employed to disarm the CIA and FBI in the United States.

Radical Left

The fact that Agee has already joined forces with the Radical Left in Germany is obvious from his new address. He is living in a house on the comfortable Schluterstrasse that was formerly occupied by Gysele and another American, Robert Michael Steele, who has disappeared from the scene since Agee arrived in town.

The house belongs to a certain Kurt Groenewold, a lawyer who was tried, convicted, and fined about £25,000 for "giving support to a terrorist organisation"—the Red Army Faction.

Disbarred from West Germany's courts, Groenewold is currently in West Berlin, "advising" the lawyers who are defending members of the terrorist 2 June Movement, accused of shooting the president of the city's Supreme Court, Herr von Drenkmann.

Left campaign

It may be equally significant that Hamburg is now the centre of a Left-wing campaign to abolish the system of *Berufsverbote*—under which members of groups that are regarded as "hostile to the constitution" are barred from holding government jobs—and to forbid the internal security service, the *Verfassungsschutz*, from monitoring the activities of the West German Communist party (DKP).

Agee did not waste much time after his arrival in Hamburg before re-establishing contact with his old friends in Cuba's General Directorate of Intelligence (DGI).

During his time in London before the publication of his first book, "Inside the Company" Agee had no fewer than 50 meetings with the man who was then the chief of the DGI network in Britain.

Agee established contact with the DGI in September, within days of his arrival in Hamburg. No doubt he is counting on further assistance from the DGI in his efforts to expose all CIA officers and agents around the world.

KGB in Hamburg

Agee has not so far made contact with the Soviet Consulate-General in Hamburg, located in a modern, four-storey building built like a fortress, in a little street called Am Feenteich.

Here is the base for the KGB network in Northern Germany, whose chief is nominally the Deputy Consul-General and has been notably active in attempts to recruit or compromise West German politicians.

Agee has had numerous contacts with Soviet intelligence officers in the past, but it would be indiscreet to say the least—for him to risk exposure so close to his new home. It is safer to use the DGI men in Bonn as intermediaries, or to hold meetings outside West Germany.

In this connection, it is fascinating to learn that Agee's first established KGB contact—a KGB officer called Vitaliy Petrovich Semenov who first met Agee when he was serving with the CIA station in Montevideo in October 1964—has been posted to Madrid after a period as a Soviet liaison officer with the DGI in Havana.

Spying in Spain

Semenov has been running espionage operations in Spain under cover as an Embassy counsellor. If it is true (as some Western analysts believe) that Semenov succeeded in compromising Agee as early as 1974, and was later involved in "handling" his case, it would not be surprising to find the ex-CIA man winging his way south to Spain.

He has already made a number of trips outside West Germany from his Hamburg base. All in all, Agee's surprise wed-

ding to Miss Ingool in Amsterdam last spring has proved to be a convenient marriage, if not a marriage of convenience. He met the ballerina, it transpires, through her mother, a Canadian citizen called Mrs Roberge, who typed part of the manuscript of *Inside the Company* for Agee when he was living in Paris in 1972.

Close contact

From Hamburg, Agee is in close contact with groups in other West European countries that are seeking to duplicate the successful anti-CIA campaign by disrupting other Western services. Agee has sometimes tried to make out that his sole interest is in the CIA, and that his activities do not endanger West European security interests.

But he gave the game away when he declared, on the eve of the recent Official Secrets trial in Britain, that "a John Berry is needed in every government department" in the United Kingdom to expose classified information.

Agee's right-hand man in Britain, Mr Phil Kelly, has been quoted in the Trotskyite paper, *News Line*, as saying that "we will campaign for the exposure of the SIS... We want the ending of covert action and secrecy."

British bulletins

One of the British groups that has received guidance and advice from Agee produces a bulletin entitled *State Research*. A shoddily-produced collection of the first seven of these bulletins was launched last week with an attempt at fanfare, under the sponsorship of two Left-wing Labour MPs. Contributors to the book, beside Phil Kelly, include members of Trotskyite revolutionary groups and David Pallister of the *Guardian*.

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The purpose of this group, according to an introductory historian E. P. Thompson, is to spy on the organs of Government responsible for safeguarding our national security.

"We must educate the public conscience," he urges, "to the point where their spies (that is, the State's) are surrounded by our spies."

He criticises the British Left for spending too much time attacking the CIA and not enough digging up dirt on British intelligence.

Dedicated assault

We must be grateful to Mr. Thompson for his candour. He makes it plain that the "Agee network" is dedicated to an assault on Western security interests in general, and not simply on those of the United States.

Agee's activities in Hamburg present the intriguing spectacle of the intermeshing of the anti-intelligence lobby, the terrorist support network and Soviet and Cuban intelligence services.

Agee can count on valuable back-up facilities from William Schaap, a Left-wing Washington lawyer who was (with Agee) a moving force in a new organisation called Counter-Watch.

Schaap, who has attended a meeting organised by a Soviet front organisation, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, in support of Hanoi, has been involved in internal West German affairs in the past.

In company with Peter Weiss, chairman of the board of the Washington-based radical think-tank, the Institute for Policies Studies (IPS), he tried to take a hand in the defence of Baader-Meinhof suspects in 1974-75.

In February last year, he visited Hamburg to assist Kurt Groenewold in his trial. Now Agee lives in a house belonging to Groenewold.